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# AMERICA'S FASTEST TEXTER

{page 14}

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## In the news

**Mechanic sentenced to community service after crane death**

NEW YORK. A mechanic was sentenced to a year of community service yesterday for his connection with a construction crane collapse that killed two workers, the New York Post reported. Tibor Varganyi, 65, pleaded guilty. Relatives of the two killed workers reportedly urged a judge to jail him instead.

• METRO/AB

## In the news


**Cops describe LES assault**

LOWER EAST SIDE. Cops are looking for a man who allegedly sexually assaulted a woman on a Lower East Side rooftop. The man and woman entered a Clinton Street building at around 2:50 a.m. on Friday and went to the roof, where the sexual assault occurred, police said. The man then fled in an unknown direction. • METRO/JG

# Man bicycles 500 miles to raise roofs

Biking 500 miles sounds crazy, right? Not for Chuck Anania, who cycled across New Jersey and Connecticut and ended his journey in Times Square yesterday.

But don't confuse Anania with Lance Armstrong.

He began the adventure 15 days ago in Trenton, N.J., to

raise awareness about his business Roof4Roof, a project that helps struggling homeowners with free emergency roofing.

Roof4Roof has helped families in the Tri-State area as well as 100 families in Columbia and Guatemala by providing free new roofs or emergency repairs.

"For every roof we sell, we help a family in need of emergency roofing," he told Metro.

Sylvia Duner, a 75-year-old from Passaic, N.J., told Metro when her roof began leaking, it stayed that way for 20 years until Anania came around.

"He fixed my roof at no

cost," she told Metro.

"Chuck is a special person," she added.

"He's compassionate, kind, truthful. If he tells you he's going to do something — he will."

 **AMANDA BARKER** amanda.barker@metro.us



► Chuck Anania



## Stuyvesant High School gets new principal

MANHATTAN. Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott appointed an interim acting principal Monday to run Stuyvesant High School after a high-profile cheating incident, the Wall Street Journal reported. Walcott handed the responsibility to Jie Zhang, a school network administrator who was principal of Queens High School for the Sciences at York College for five years. Stuyvesant's former principal, Stanley Teitel, reportedly announced Friday that he will retire Sept. 1.

• METRO/AB

## Brooklyn armed robbers still at large

BROOKLYN. Cops are searching for two men wanted in connection with a string of armed robberies in Brooklyn. The thefts occurred June 20 at the Sirius Car Approval Corp. in Flatlands, July 11 at MB Vineyards liquor store in Midwood and Aug. 1 at the Interboro Auto Mall in Bushwick, cops said. Each time, the robbers displayed a black gun, ordered victims to the ground and then stole property, police said.

• METRO/JG

# Red Hook: Take a break without leaving the city

► Forget the Jersey Shore or the Hamptons ► If you're looking for a summer getaway, it's in Brooklyn ► Explore hidden nautical surprises

Unless you own a car, Red Hook is not the easiest New York City neighborhood to find. There is no subway line to the southeastern Brooklyn hook of land that juts into New York Harbor.

But that isolation only adds to the neighborhood's mystique.

As you arrive at the Red Hook waterfront, whether by boat, bus or bike, the salty New York Harbor breeze bristles lightly against your skin, welcoming you to a different world. Far from the whir of Manhattan, but with striking views of the city skyline, Red Hook is a place locals now consider a small town of its own.

"We've all known each other a long time, and there's a huge cooperative theme between all of us here," said Sam Berliner, manager at The Good Fork restaurant on Van Brunt Street. "Red Hook is this tiny little place everyone comes down to and the businesses down here all know each other, so it has a communal vibe."

This evolving neighborhood is quickly becoming a haven for day-trippers and night-crawlers seeking a relaxing reprieve within the five boroughs.



► Red Hook offers seafood and mini golf.

It's the type of spot where you can still sneak a smoke inside a bar bathroom (we won't say where) in between noshing on the best lobster roll in the city at Red Hook Lobster Pound.

And you can't miss Brooklyn Crab, a new, elevated crab shack and beer garden that just opened in June. Crack blue shells by the water with views of the Statue of Liberty. There's also mini golf there, too.

"Red Hook is an old shipping area. Everything's on the waterfront, and it's all old industrial buildings by the docks," James Ferrarone, general manager of Brooklyn Crab, said on a sunny Sunday afternoon. "There's a ton of new places opening. It's a beautiful area and a really cool spot."

 **CONNOR ADAMS SHEETS** letters@metro.us

## Enjoy a lazy

## Sunday in

## Red Hook

- Homemade Oreo and iced coffee at Baked, 359 Van Brunt St., bakednyc.com
- Get lost inside IKEA for a few hours, fantasizing about all the Nordic furniture you could own
- Brunch at The Good Fork, 391 Van Brunt, goodfork.com
- If you want to add a little urban culture to your tour, check out the birthplace of Busta Rhymes and Knicks star Carmelo Anthony, both of whom grew up in the infamous Red Hook Houses
- \$2 PBR in the garden at Brooklyn Ice House, 318 Van Brunt
- Blue crabs, mojitos and, yes, mini golf, at Brooklyn Crab, 24 Reed St., brooklyn crab.com
- Watch the sun set over the Statue of Liberty and Lower Manhattan at Louis Valentino, Jr. Park, Coffey and Ferris streets

## Love from a local

Susan Lippman, who said she takes a daily walk along the waterside Erie Basin Park with her dog Sadie, told Metro she moved to the outskirts of Red Hook about two years ago because she wanted to get away

from the frenetic Manhattan life but still live somewhere that offered nightlife and culture.

"It's like this little community where you can get the park all to yourself but still be at work in the city in 30 minutes," she said. "And it's a lot of fun, too — great restaurants, bars, art. I love it."

## Get hooked

There are two ways to get to Red Hook via public transit:

### By boat

Catch the IKEA water taxi at Pier 11 in Lower Manhattan between noon and 9:20 p.m. daily for a 20-minute ride to the Brooklyn IKEA,

just a half-mile walk from downtown Red Hook. The water taxi is free on weekends.

### The bus

If you prefer the bus, take the B61 from Park Slope or Downtown Brooklyn to Van Brunt Street, Red Hook's main drag.

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Tea Sets.....	Up To.....	\$5,000
Trophies.....	Up To.....	\$5,000

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# NYPD investigates Twitter threat against Broadway theater

► Social media site refuses to hand over account information ► NYPD sends officers, requests subpoena ► Tweeter also threatened celebrities

Cops are pushing Twitter to reveal the identity of a user who threatened to commit an Aurora, Colo.-like massacre at boxer Mike Tyson's one-man Broadway show.

The NYPD learned of the risk to the Longacre Theater in midtown late Friday night.

But when police used an emergency system established by Twitter to request the account information of the poster, the company turned them down, according to spokesman Paul Browne.

"So we dispatched police to

**"We take the threat seriously, especially in light of recent attacks in Wisconsin and Colorado."**

PAUL BROWNE

cover the theater while we sought a subpoena," Browne said.

In one tweet, the poster wrote, "I'm serious, people are gonna die like aurora," according to the New York Post, which first broke the story.

The poster, who goes by the handle "@obamasmistress" — an account unavailable as of last night — also reportedly threatened to kill celebrities, including Perez Hilton, Wendy Williams and Justin Bieber.

A representative at Twitter declined to comment.

Tyson's show, "Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth," opened July 31 at the Longacre Theater on West 48th Street and runs until Aug. 12.

JESSE GREENSPAN  
jesse.greenspan@metro.us

## Tweet reaction

Metro asked theatergoers what they thought about the tweet threat.

► "I wouldn't go," Laura Fabrega, from Panama, said. "Maybe it's not true, but I wouldn't go anyway."

► "I think if this person was actually going to do it, they wouldn't tweet about it," Cara H., from Kansas City, said. ■ METRO/AB



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# Why the Wis. tragedy matters to New Yorkers

Since the massacre of Sikhs in Wisconsin Sunday, we have been moved by the outpouring of support from our fellow New Yorkers. Even strangers have come up to us on the streets of Manhattan to offer flowers, hugs and encouragement. We are incredibly thankful to everyone for reaching out to us.

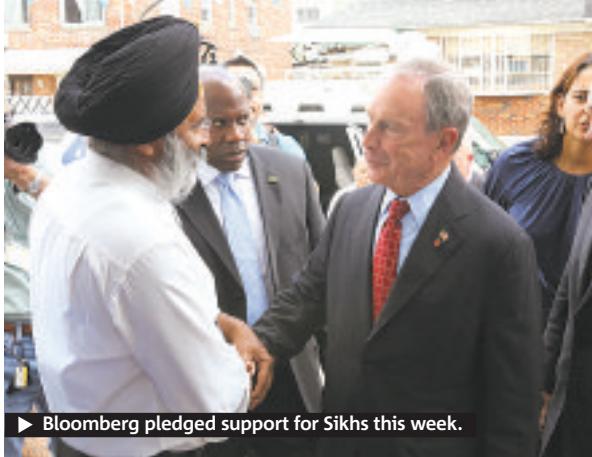
At the same time, we are deeply disturbed that this violence fits into a pattern of hate crimes against Sikhs and Muslims in America. And although we like to think of ourselves as being the most diverse, cosmopolitan and tolerant place on Earth, hate crimes have been rampant here in New York City, too.

Sikhs have been verbally harassed and physically assaulted during the past decade. Last



▶ Kaur

▶ Singh



▶ Bloomberg pledged support for Sikhs this week.

year, an MTA worker was attacked on a subway, accused of being related to Osama bin Laden, and punched so violently that he had three teeth knocked out.

A group of kids chased after turbaned Americans in the New York City Marathon, throwing stones and screaming "Let's get bin Laden!" And, heartbreakingly, even young children, who should be protected from such hate, have been bullied, victimized and

even hospitalized. A recent study by the Sikh Coalition revealed three out of four Sikh kids are bullied in city schools.

These acts of violence do not represent the New York City we

know and love. They do not represent the acceptance and open-mindedness palpable in our lives here.

Yet in commemorating the lives of those who were lost in Wisconsin and recognizing that we are not immune to the discrimination against minorities, we can hope to go beyond violence and hate and move toward compassion, understanding and love.

— *Gunisha Kaur, M.D., is a physician at New York Presbyterian Hospital of Cornell and Columbia Universities. Simran Jeet Singh, Ph.D., is a student in Columbia University's Department of Religion and on the Sikh Coalition's national advisory board.*

*Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.*

**In the news**  
**New York**  
**clamps down**  
**on bath salts**

**NEW YORK.** State regulators joined in the crackdown against drugs like bath salts and synthetic marijuana. The Department of Health expanded its list yesterday of prohibited substances — a move that should make it harder to skirt the law — and increased criminal penalties.

"We must do everything we can to remove these harmful substances from sale and distribution," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. A recently passed federal law likewise banned dozens of active ingredients found in bath salts and synthetic marijuana. And last month, the feds made more than 90 bath salts-related arrests nationwide, including at least three in Brooklyn. Bath salts are amphetamine-type stimulants marketed under brand names that include "Vanilla Sky" and "Ivory Wave."

● JESSE GREENSPAN

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# Obama: Americans should search souls about gun violence

President Barack Obama said yesterday that mass killings like the shooting rampage at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin were occurring with "too much regularity" and should prompt soul-searching by all Americans, but he stopped short of calling for new gun-control laws.

"All of us are heartbroken by what happened," Obama told reporters at the White House a day after a gunman opened fire on Sikh worshippers preparing for religious services, killing six before he was shot dead by a police officer.

But when asked whether he would push for further gun-control measures in the wake of the shootings, Obama said only that he wanted to bring together leaders at all levels of American society to examine ways to curb gun violence.



► A memorial in Aurora

KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

### Politically risky

Talk of reining in America's gun culture is considered politically risky for Obama, who is locked in a tight race against Republican challenger Mitt Romney for the November election.

That echoed his pledge last month in a speech in New Orleans to work broadly to "arrive at a consensus" on the contentious issue after a deadly Colorado shooting spree highlighted the problem in an election year.

But like his earlier comments, Obama offered no timetable or specifics for such discussions and did not call outright for tighter gun control laws. **REUTERS**

# Loughner pleads guilty when found competent

Jared Lee Loughner pleaded guilty to killing six people and trying to assassinate U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords last year after being found mentally competent by a federal judge in Tucson, Ariz.

The former community college student previously pleaded not guilty to charges of



► Loughner

**19** Loughner, 23, pleaded guilty to 19 counts and won't face the death penalty under his plea agreement.

murder and attempted murder related to the Jan. 8, 2011, shooting. **BLOOMBERG**

### News in brief

#### ABC reports Holmes doctor contacted cops before shooting

DENVER. The psychiatrist who treated James Holmes contacted a University of Colorado police officer to express concerns about Holmes' behavior several weeks before his alleged rampage, ABC News reported, citing unnamed sources.

The sources did not know what the officer approached

by Dr. Lynne Fenton did with the information she passed along, ABC said in a report Monday on its website.

They said, however, that the officer was recently interviewed, with an attorney present, by the Aurora, Colo., police department as a part of the investigation.

**REUTERS**

#### NRA asked for money days after Aurora massacre

DENVER. Three days after a gunman calling himself the

Joker from the Batman series shot dead 12 people in a suburban Denver movie theater, the National Rifle Association sent out a letter asking for money.

"The future of your Second Amendment rights will be at stake," the letter said. "And nothing less than the future of our country and our freedom will be at stake."

The letter dated July 23, which was sent to NRA supporters including to people in Colorado, doesn't mention the gunfire during the showing of the new Batman movie July 20 in Aurora, Colo.

**BLOOMBERG**

# Standard Chartered questions motive of US regulator's Iran scheme claims

A New York bank regulator's broadside against Standard Chartered bank, for allegedly hiding \$250 billion in transactions tied to Iran left investors and the bank questioning the motive for the ambush, which wiped \$17 billion off its value.

London-based Standard Chartered hit back at the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) threat to tear up its state banking license yesterday, dismissing the charge that it was a "rogue institution" that "schemed" with the Iranian government as a distortion of the facts.

Bank insiders were as shocked as investors by the ferocity of the DFS accusations over its involvement with Iran, which is subject to U.S. sanctions over its nuclear program.

Chief Executive Peter Sands scrambled back from his vacation as the bank held hastily convened conference calls to plan its defense and try to limit the damage caused to its reputation.

The U.S. agency said Standard Chartered hid 60,000 secret transactions with Iranian companies, to generate hun-



## \$250B

New York's top bank regulator threatened to strip the lender of its state banking license, saying it hid \$250 billion in transactions tied to Iran, in violation of U.S. law.

dreds of millions of dollars in fees over nearly ten years.

One institutional investor, who asked not to be named, said: "Some of the language used is very disturbing. Of course, it could be that the Americans are exaggerating,

but somehow that doesn't seem to be the case here," the investor said.

A fund manager for a major institutional shareholder in the bank, however, commented that "sensational language" used by the regulator "diminished" its allegations.

The bank, which has been in talks with U.S. authorities since early 2010 over the matter, had exposed the U.S. banking system to terrorists, drug traffickers and corrupt states, the DFS said.

Shares in the bank closed down 16.4 percent taking their losses to 24 percent since the news broke. **REUTERS**

## Newest iPhone will not include YouTube app

**SAN FRANCISCO.** Apple Inc.'s new version of its iPhone and iPad software will not include a pre-loaded app for Google's popular video website, YouTube, Apple said yesterday.

It was the latest sign of the growing rivalry between the technology companies that once were

closely aligned but now are vying for supremacy in the fast-growing mobile computing market.

Earlier this year, Apple said it would dump Google's mapping software from its mobile devices.

"Apple and Google are the mobile operating systems for the future and this is where the battleground is going to lie," said Needham & Co analyst Kerry Rice.

"If it's going to be a two-horse race, you certainly don't want to give the other horse any kind of lead," he said. **REUTERS**



## US nuns meet to decide how to respond to Vatican rebuke

**ST. LOUIS.** The largest group for American nuns began a four-day meeting in St. Louis to consider a response to the Vatican's decision to assign effective control of the group to a trio of bishops because the nuns had strayed from church doctrine.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious is conducting its first national assembly since church leadership accused the group of focusing too much on social-justice issues such as poverty and not enough opposing abortion, gay marriage and euthanasia. **REUTERS**



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# How the weather influences life's big spending decisions

GABRIEL BOUYS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



► A savvy seller can profit on shoppers' projection bias. That's why car dealers do all they can to ink a contract while you're pumped up over a test drive.

For the sake of argument, let's say you have a fleet of vehicles and want to clear some space in your five-car garage. What should you sell first? The vehicle with the highest mileage or the lowest? The gas-guzzler or the hybrid? Last year's model or the classic?

How about the one that fits the weather pattern?

It probably doesn't come as a surprise that convertibles sell better in the spring than in the dead of winter, or that small-engine cars move faster when gas prices spike. Now there's academic research to support and even quantify the effects weather has on the sales process.

Convertibles don't just sell better in warm weather. Specifically, a 20-degree in-

crease in temperature spurs an 8.5 percent increase in convertible sales, according to Jorge Silva-Risso, an associate professor of marketing at the University of California's Riverside's School of Business Administration.

Silva-Risso and his co-authors find that the same 20-degree temperature spike causes a 2.1 percent drop in the number of black vehicles sold, while a shift from cloudy to clear weather reduces black vehicle sales by 5.6 percent.

Similarly, a 6 percent increase in sales of four-wheel-drive vehicles follows a 10-inch snowfall.

Finally, if you invested in an expensive swimming pool, wait until the summer to sell: A home with a swimming

## Looking at sales data

The vehicle research looked at data from more than 40 million new and used vehicle sales, about 20% of the total from 2001 through 2008. The housing data included four million sales of single-family homes from 1998 through 2008.

The authors cite the value of cooling-off periods for certain purchases. Some laws, for instance, give buyers time to change their minds after high-pressure door-to-door sales. [MAINSTREET.COM](http://MAINSTREET.COM)

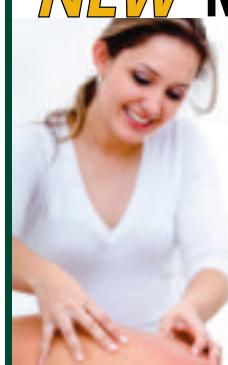
pool will sell for \$1,600 more, on average, in the summer versus the winter.

The research in the UC Riverside study is predicated on a process known as "projection bias," which provides opportunities for sellers and serves as a caution to buyers.

"Projection bias refers to the tendency to overpredict the degree to which future tastes will resemble current tastes," says a university explanation of the research. "For example, the popular adage 'Never shop on an empty stomach' is a caution against projection bias: Consumers are likely to overpredict the degree their future selves will appreciate the purchases that their current selves crave."

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# THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip **@monicaatmetro** **monica.weymouth@metro.us**

## Sorry, London: Posh doesn't come cheap

Forget the Opening Ceremony — the Spice Girls are reuniting for a performance at the Olympics' closing-night ceremony.

Unfortunately though, things don't always go smoothly when five former pop stars try to squeeze back into their platform sneakers. It seems **Victoria Beckham** — or, as we never stopped calling her, **Posh Spice** — has some wardrobe requirements.

"They are paying at least \$15,000 for Victoria Beckham's hair, makeup and stylist. In comparison, the other Spice Girls cost one-fourth of what Victoria is costing," a source tells Hollyscoop of the Olympic preparations. "All of the diva stories about Victoria are true. This is p-ing off the other Spice Girls. They don't understand why she is getting special treatment."

Allow us to explain, ladies: It's because her name is Victoria Beckham, and



Beckham

she has closets bigger than some competing countries.

### Lochte crushing on Blake Lively

In other Olympic news that has nothing to do with the Olympics, **Ryan Lochte** has admitted to having a crush on actress **Blake Lively**, telling CNN's Piers Morgan that "she is gorgeous."

As for the pick-up line, he tells Morgan he has one ready: "I would be like, 'Hi. You want to go to an island with me?'"

Yeah, Ryan buddy, maybe you should just stick to taking off your shirt.



Lively and Lochte



### The magic's in the makeup

**Gwen Stefani** has always rocked a little **Juno Cleaver** along with her punky hair. Here is why your boyfriend/husband/cat would totally leave you for her tomorrow:

"I've always been a girl who loves to dress up," she tells Harper's Bazaar in the new issue. "I already put my makeup on twice today: I put it on to take my kid to school, and then I went home, washed my face and put it on again. I like to

make my husband like me more, and he likes it when I'm wearing makeup."



Stefani

### Nobody did it better

America lost one of its greatest contemporary composers earlier this week when **Marvin Hamlisch** died. Hamlisch was best known for composing the score of the musical "A Chorus Line" and for co-writing "Nobody Does It Better," the theme song from the James Bond film "The Spy Who Loved Me," which Carly Simon turned into a top 10 hit. Hamlisch's work stretched into all disciplines of entertainment, and he is one of only 11 people to complete what is known as



Hamlisch

an EGOT, meaning he won awards from the Emmys, Grammys, Oscars and Tonys.



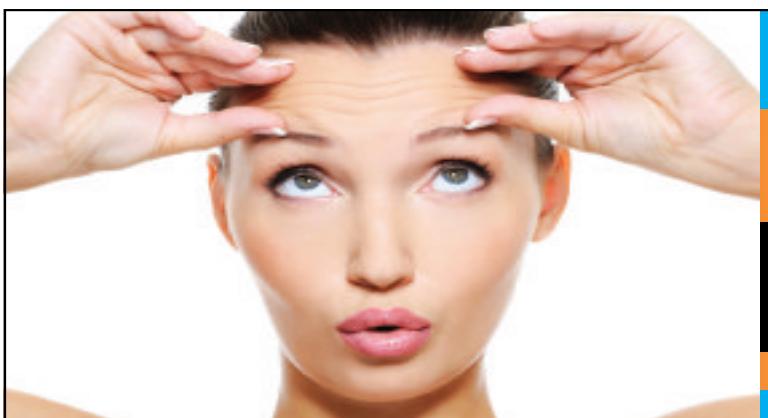
### The feed ...

► **Checking in with** some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

► **@NathanFillion**  
How's your handshake? You sure? Is it too hard? Do you pinch? People think they have it right, but don't. Seriously—check.

► **@Joan\_Rivers**  
Ryan Lochte admits that he urinated in the water at the Olympics. Apparently he saw a sign that said "warm-up pool," so he did.

► **@SarahKSilverman**  
Learned what your "root" is in yoga and giggled all the way to the plank FOLKS



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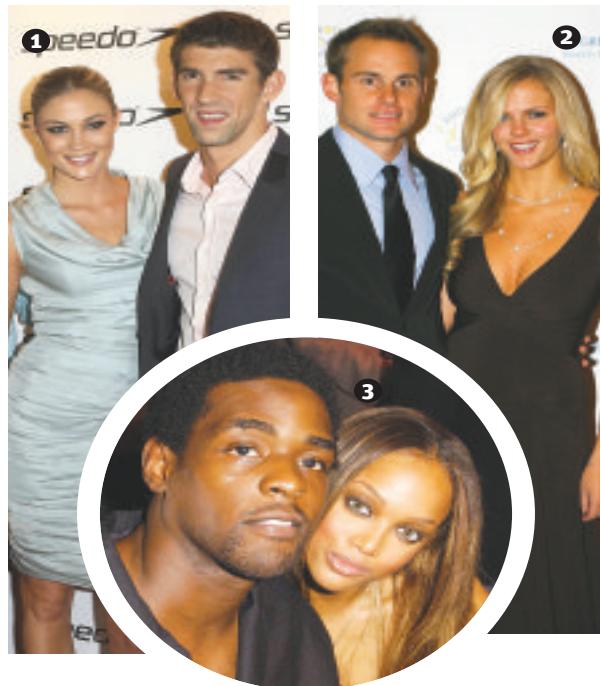
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## Model athletes

We couldn't help but notice the tall blonde on Michael Phelps' gigantic arm at a party in London on Monday night. Not that he's the only pro athlete to step out with a model:

1. Meet model **Megan Rossee**, **Michael Phelps'** girlfriend of five months and a former college soccer player.



2. Sports Illustrated cover girl **Brooklyn Decker** is married to tennis pro **Andy Roddick**.

3. **Tyra Banks** dated former NBA star **Chris Webber** in 2002.

4. **Gisele Bundchen** and New England Patriots quarterback **Tom Brady** are reportedly expecting baby No. 2.

5. **Tiger Woods** was, once upon a time, married to Swedish model **Elin Nordegren**.

6. Victoria's Secret A-lister **Adriana Lima** is expecting her second child with Serbian professional basketball player **Marco Jaric**.

1: TIM WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES  
2: JAY WEST/WIREIMAGE  
3: ROBERT MORA/GETTY IMAGES  
4: LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES  
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# For ‘Super Troopers,’ adulthood isn’t easy

► The Broken Lizard guys’ latest deals with fertility issues ► But don’t worry — ‘Babymakers’ comes complete with heists, gangsters and gags

GETTY IMAGES

## Girl talk

It's a credit to Paul Schneider's messy charm that it's even plausible that the eerily beautiful Olivia Munn would talk to any of the guys in "The Babymakers." But she wasn't hired just for her looks.

"She has such a sense of timing and a funny, dark sense of humor, so she fits right in," says Chandrasekhar.

MONICA WEYMOUTH  
monica.weymouth@metro.us



► Still pretty funny meow: Jay Chandrasekhar and Kevin Heffernan star in "The Babymakers."

**A**t first, "The Babymakers" seems like a strange offering from the Broken Lizard comedy crew. The story of Audrey (Olivia Munn) and Tommy (Paul Schneider) — a perfectly happy couple who begin to unravel when trying to get pregnant — the film dabbles in the romantic comedy tropes that "Super Troopers" and "Beerfest" were generally too drunk or too stoned to earnestly bother with.

"Well, we're certainly going through that in our lives — we're getting married, trying to have kids," says Broken Lizard member and "Babymakers" director Jay Chandrasekhar. "It really hits on some of the issues

**“Acting and directing — it’s the perfect way to ruin two perfectly good jobs.”** JAY CHANDRASEKAR

we're all going through, but it still had the heist."

The heist, it quickly turns out, is much more important to the film than babies. After a fertility doctor informs Tommy that he's the problem, he recruits his friends to rob a sperm bank that houses a vial of his very healthy college-era sperm donation. As with most Broken Lizard films, Kevin Heffernan earns the bulk of the laughs by getting himself in sticky situations (this time, unfortunately, very literally). "You bring in the really good actors to do the good stuff, like Paul Schneider," says Heffernan. "Personally, I'd rather be the guy hanging out the window than having a serious discussion with my wife — for me, that's harder."

Not that Heffernan gets all the good scenes. Chandrasekhar plays an incompetent Indian mobster recruited to assist with the robbery, a role he admits he was the natural frontrunner for. "Acting and directing — it's the perfect way to ruin two perfectly good jobs," says Chandrasekhar. "But the best way to get a good part is to audition for the part and give yourself the role."

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# Finding an 'Oasis' at Fringe Festival

► Turkish choreographer bridges worlds with inspiration from Persian folk tale, 'Layla and Majnoon'

Every arts career starts somewhere — and for 15 years, New York's International Fringe Festival has launched hundreds. This season's roster boasts a dozen dance events ranging from hip-hop and flamenco to a dance-opera based on the Tarot.

One of the most alluring might be Nejla Y. Yatkin's "Oasis: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Middle East but Were Afraid to Dance." Yatkin, 41, has Turkish parents; she grew up in Germany and lived in two worlds, shuttling between East and West. She speaks Turkish, German, English and French, and she knows Latin. She adds: "Now I'm studying

Spanish on my iPhone!"

Her new work, 70 minutes long, tackles veiling, women's issues and education. "[It's] a Persian story, 'Layla and Majnoon,' like 'Romeo and Juliet.' I'm using that as a mystical place to start from." "Oasis" plays at Theater 80 in the East Village beginning Aug. 18.

"Majnoon means crazy; Layla stands for ethereal things like the moon. They love each other, but the guy is poor and the woman is rich; society doesn't let them come together. He winds up in the desert, blind and reciting beautiful poems for the rest of his life." Iranian composer Shamou is providing original music.

New York audiences, she says, "rarely see the complexi-

ty and diversity of the Middle East. The events of the Arab Spring inspired this piece, as I was inspired as a teenager by the fall of the Berlin Wall. How can democracy be successful if all the voices are not included, like those of women and gays?"

ELIZABETH ZIMMER  
elizabeth.zimmer@metro.us

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► Dancers rehearse a burka fashion show for "Oasis: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Middle East but Were Afraid to Dance."

# "HILARIOUS AND HEARTFELT."

Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*.



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# THE QUICKEST FINGERS IN ALL OF THE LAND

- Last year's fastest texter in the country will get a run for his money
- Queens-born Kent Augustine has some stiff competition today, too

**K**ent Augustine may seem like your everyday, ordinary teenager. Originally from Queens, he is the senior class president at his high school, runs track and field events and enjoys amateur photography. At the age of 16, he also happens to be a finalist in the sixth annual National Texting Competition, competing for a grand prize of \$50,000.

Texting since he was 13, Augustine first learned about the competition by watching a commercial on MTV.

"I stumbled upon this game about three years ago. Back then, they had it on MTV where during a commercial break, they'd have a quote on the screen where you'd text it to them, and that's how you'd get in, but I'd never really win," says Augustine.

### Testing his texting

Allowing us to test his texting speed for ourselves, we had Augustine send us a text of our choosing as we timed him.

► In 20.1 seconds, we received a typo-free excerpt from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar." ("Men at some time are masters of their fates: The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings.") Not too bad for someone whose best texting time is usually about 15 or 16 seconds.

**SALEM GEBREZGI**  
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The competition, which has been going on since 2007, is sponsored by LG. The company sent him the LG Optimus smartphone. Finalists get the same equipment so they can practice their techniques. Although he has the iPhone 4, Augustine admits that he is a faster texter on the LG due to its keyboard.

Augustine says he practices every night for about 30 minutes and sends about 100 text messages a day. He says his biggest competition is returning champion, 17-year-old Austin Wierschke from Rhinelander, Wis.

Augustine's

texting may sometimes distract him from his chores (his parents have taken his phone away as a punishment in the past). But if he wins this competition, it could mean more than \$50,000. It could mean the end to any future complaints from his folks about overusing his phone.



Kent Augustine will compete in the sixth annual National Texting Competition today at 2:30 p.m. in Times Square in New York City.

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2. Besides enhancing your tan, Clarins' new bronzer protects against pollution, free radicals and UV rays. **Clarins bronzing duo SPF 15, \$34, [www.clarinusa.com](http://www.clarinusa.com)**

3. Even more important than your smartphone. **L'Oréal Paris Sublime Sun sunscreen SPF 50+, \$11, drugstores nationwide**

4. Malin + Goetz's new natural formula bug spray uses essential oils like rosemary, geranium and citronella to keep critters from mess-

ing with your tan. Also great for anyone with sensitive or irritated skin. **Malin + Goetz bug spray, \$20, [www.malinandgoetz.com](http://www.malinandgoetz.com)**

5. Poppin' and protected. **Benefit Cosmetics Benetint Lip Balm SPF 15, \$20, [www.benefitcosmetics.com](http://www.benefitcosmetics.com)**

6. No time for that mani before your trip? This pack contains a nail color, 40 pre-soaked polish remover pads and a mini nail file. **Duality Cosmetics Nail Pak, \$20, [www.dualitycosmetics.com](http://www.dualitycosmetics.com)**

7. Bumble and bumble's best-selling Surf Spray now comes in a handy, travel-sized bottle. See ya next week, hair dryer. **Bumble and bumble Surf Spray, \$15, [www.bumbleandbumble.com](http://www.bumbleandbumble.com)**

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**Health notes****Body by Wahlberg**

Who could resist Mark Wahlberg's body in those Calvin Klein ads? Now, the actor and producer wants to help you on your path to fitness. He's teamed up with GNC for a new sports nutrition line, MARKED, which features multivitamins, metabolism-boosters, protein snacks and more. Products are available at GNC stores or online at [www.gnc.com](http://www.gnc.com), and a portion of sales goes to Wahlberg's foundation for inner-city youth.

**Why Americans participate in endurance events and races**

**1** To raise money for a cause (34 percent)

**2** To increase health and fitness (32 percent)



► Bounce your way to better health at Kangoo Kaze.

**3** To lose weight (27 percent)

Source: Eventbrite

**Katch the Kraze**

If you're beginning to dread your morning jog around the block, switch up your workout for one that'll get you amped to get moving. Right now we're digging Kangoo Kaze at the 92nd St. Y, a Zumba-like workout — on moonshoes. Led by the enthusiastic Mario Godiva, who brought Kangoo to the U.S., you'll strap into the shoes for

an hour of jumps and bounces to high-energy music. Four classes are \$100 for nonmembers (\$40 if you already own Kangoo shoes), and the next series kicks off Aug. 16. Visit [www.92y.org](http://www.92y.org) to sign up.

**Competitive edge**

Sixty-four percent of men and women are likely to compare their performance with the person next to them at the gym. Source: *FITNESS magazine/Yahoo! Shine*

● MEREDITH ENGEL

# Have a safe (and healthier) flight

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**The question:**

*Every time I fly on an airplane, people all around me are coughing and sniffing. How can I avoid getting sick and ruining my vacation?*



► Bring your own reading material to avoid the germs crawling around in your seat pocket.

**S**itting on an airplane surrounded by coughing, sniffing and sneezing neighbors is unnerving indeed. Aerosolized droplets contain the viruses that spread colds, and a number of scientific studies have documented the presence of illness-causing bacteria and viruses on surfaces of airplane cabins and restrooms. These upper respiratory infections and the gastrointestinal viruses that cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea are easily transmitted from person to person. They can be inhaled or transmitted when you rub your eyes, nose or mouth after coming into contact with contaminated surfaces. Washing your hands frequently with soap and water or using hand sanitizer is the best way to avoid catching and transmitting these illnesses. Avoid shaking hands if possible. If you are particularly vigilant, wipe your tray tables, arm rests, seat console controls

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DR. MARK MELROSE

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and overhead buttons with disinfectant towelettes, and ignore seatback magazines and pamphlets. It may attract unwanted attention, but germophobes can wear a disposable surgical mask while on board. And in hotels, don't forget to wipe down the TV remote control.

Traveler's diarrhea also can be inconvenient, so if you go abroad, avoid eating raw food

and vegetables, only drink or brush your teeth using bottled water and ask for no ice cubes in your drinks.

If you do get sick, bring a stash of your favorite over-the-counter cold, cough and flu remedies along in a first aid kit. As a last resort, ask your doctor for "just-in-case" prescriptions for antibiotics to cover respiratory illnesses and traveler's diarrhea, which may save the day if all else fails.

— **Mark Melrose, DO, is a board-certified emergency physician at Urgent Care Manhattan. E-mail him your questions at [askdrmark@metro.us](mailto:askdrmark@metro.us).**

*Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.*

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## Letters

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## Coverage of Sikh temple killings found wanting

I'm very disappointed at some media coverage of the shooting at Wisconsin Sikh temple as an act of "mistaken identity." The implication that those cowardly murderers of innocent lives were chiefly mistaking turban-wearing Sikhs for Muslims on the part of the perpetrator seems to me, as a humanist, utterly deplorable. Bin Laden, Jared Loughner, the suspect James Holmes and Anders Breivik — none of them committed the murders "mistakenly." They were rather premeditated and well-planned. To avert such terror in the future, the news media could help by more in-depth analysis of the topic, in contrast to superficial leveling such as the "mis-

taken identity."

JAHED AHMED, QUEENS

I've noticed a surprisingly low level of coverage concerning Sunday's attack on the Sikh temple in Wisconsin, and to date no letters on it appearing on this page. I sincerely hope this is because people are engaged in some serious contemplation about our society's gun fetish, and not simply because the victims were non-Caucasian and non-Christian, and thus not worth the time.

JOSEPH CONNELL, BROOKLYN

## Utopia lyrics had the answer all along

I am appalled and greatly sadden over the latest shooting and massacre of innocent Sikhs in Wisconsin — and in their house of worship. Is no

place sacred? My heartfelt prayers go out to the peaceful Sikh people and their families that have lost so much. As a nation, we can never be truly free if we continue hating those of different cultures. We are all brothers and sisters of the human race and were created by God to love one another. Remember this too: Hate is created in the home, and parents ought to teach their children to respect all people. Love is the answer.

FREDERICK R. BEDELL JR., GLEN OAKS VILLAGE, N.Y.

## Mets (fans just) can't catch (a break)

A recent article said a NYC cop who refused to leave a seat that was not his was banned from Citi Field. Mean-

ing he can't "enjoy" a Mets game until 2013. What crime did the rest of Met fans commit to deserve the same punishment?

ROBERT LA ROSA, WHITESTONE N.Y.

## At least that means he's good at limbo?

With our current president running the country, the bar has been set so low that anyone that will do a better job than Obama.

Wake up, this guy will go down in history as being the least qualified and worst president this country has ever seen.

JOHN MURPHY, NEW YORK CITY

## Romney might share trait with Tin Man

I would like to know what charities and or nonprofits Mr. Romney has supported for the past decade. This may point to where his heart is, as his head appears to be focused on his campaign. Does Mr. Romney give back?

ANDREA OWENS, VIA E-MAIL

past and search for a similar situation to guide you.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 19. Sitting down with a good friend whom you trust would be an extremely beneficial thing to do. Valuable ideas could be garnered from a frank discussion.

♓ Pisces Feb. 20-March 20. Gossip you've heard concerning a good friend will be either verified or disproved through conversations with others. Fortunately, you'll know the truth when you hear it.

♈ Aries March 21-April 19. While you're in the mood, reorganize your affairs in ways that will make it easier for you to overcome certain obstacles that have been problems for far too long.

♉ Taurus April 20-May 20. The secret to success is already interwoven within your philosophy of life — when you want the best for others and yourself, you'll come out ahead.

♊ Gemini May 21-June 20. By monitoring events, you should quickly learn that something you've long wanted to change could be facilitated through a third party. Do it.

♋ Cancer June 21-July 22. In a situation regarding which both you and your mate share the same hopes and desires, success could be probable. Pull together until you achieve exactly what you want.

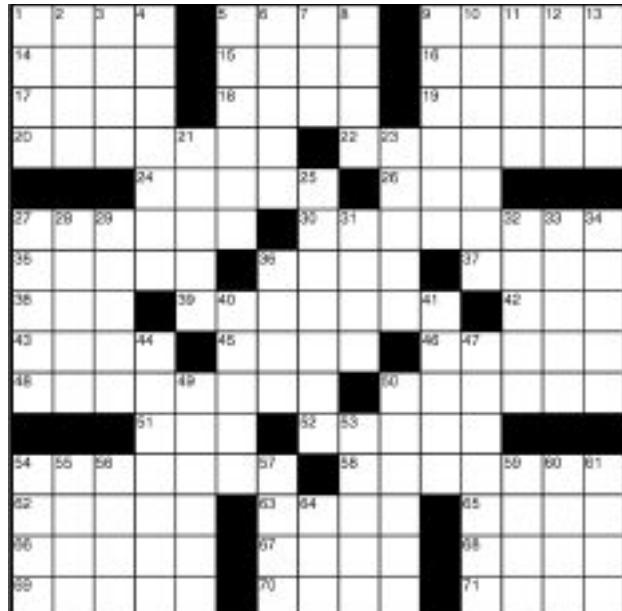
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

## Across

1 Sheik's cartel  
5 Future fries  
9 Our, in Tours  
14 Game played on horseback  
15 Atlas abbr.  
16 Sighed with delight  
17 V \_\_\_ victory  
18 D'Artagnan prop  
19 "Goodnight" girl  
20 Bowling groups  
22 Large vessel  
24 Meat-stock jelly  
26 Co. honcho  
27 Private eye  
30 Unyielding (hyph.)  
35 Supply the banquet  
36 Nota \_\_\_  
37 Severe hairdo  
38 Turkish official  
39 Assumption  
42 \_\_\_ de cologne  
43 Red on the inside  
45 Elec. or gas  
46 Kudu cousin  
48 Tex-Mex beans  
50 End of a threat (2 wds.)  
51 Hot time in Quebec  
52 Unspoken  
54 Roy G. Biv displays  
58 Convention  
62 Flavor  
63 Donahue or Collins  
65 Europe-Asia range  
66 Make a sound  
67 Fast-food order (2 wds.)  
68 Geographic feature  
69 Forms droplets  
70 Bench or hassock  
71 Latin I verb

## Down

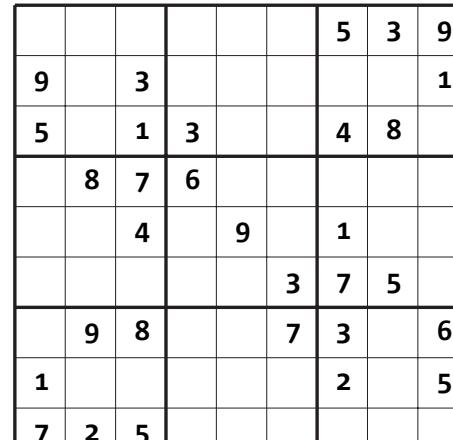
1 Libra's stone



2 Raise, as a question  
3 Charles Lamb  
4 Griff, e.g. (2 wds.)  
5 Makes tea  
6 Soft drink brand  
7 "Where Eagles Dare" actress  
8 Remnant  
9 Put up boards  
10 Rowboat part  
11 Quaker pronoun  
12 Gambler's town  
13 Early garden?

21 Grab the throne  
23 Farm sizes  
25 British pharmacist  
27 Wolf down  
28 Snert's master  
29 Video-game pioneer  
31 Indigo plant  
32 Tatum or Ryan  
33 Speckled horses  
34 Chopin piece  
36 \_\_\_ noire  
40 Monarch or yardstick  
41 Spine-tingling

44 Kicked out of a game  
47 Salad green  
49 Abalone eaters  
50 Nocturnal wildcat  
53 Pablo's girlfriend  
54 Injure a toe  
55 An hors d'oeuvre  
56 Como \_\_\_ usted?  
57 Two-BR units  
59 Some nest eggs  
60 Enjoys a siesta  
61 Winner's feeling  
64 Ground breaker



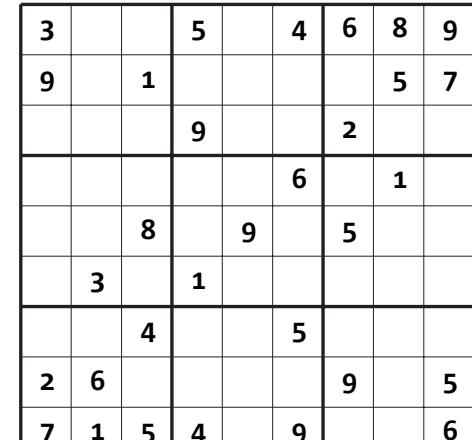
## SUDOKU LEVEL: EASY



## Solution to Tuesday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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## 3

Tune in



## Three events to catch today:

► The men's decathlon begins today and American Ashton Eaton is the favorite. He set the world record in June at the U.S. Olympic trials. The first five events are today, including the 100m and long jump, two of Eaton's best events.

► The women's 200m final is today at 4 p.m. EST and it has a very similar feel to the 100m. Five of the eight runners are the same including 100m champ Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and the favorite, American Allyson Felix.

► Elimination rounds begin in men's basketball with the United States facing Australia at 5:15 p.m. EST. The U.S. looked shaky against Lithuania but rebounded nicely to beat Argentina. The Aussies feature NBA player and St. Mary's legend Patty Mills.

MARK OSBORNE

If Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh-Jennings are going to win an unprecedented third straight gold medal in beach volleyball, they are going to have to defeat America.

Just hours after May-Treanor and Walsh-Jennings defeated the favored Chinese pair of Xue Chen and Zhang Xi, they were joined in the gold medal final by the other American duo of April Ross and Jen Kessy.

Ross and Kessy battled the No. 1 seed and defending world champion Brazilians Juliana and Larissa at Horse Guards Parade in a cold, driving rain. The Americans spent each timeout with their feet in buckets of warm water to keep them from going numb.

May-Treanor and Walsh-Jennings captured the nation's attention in 2004 when they won gold in Athens. They dominated the sport for the next four years and won again in Beijing.

But over the past four years, the duo went their separate ways as Walsh was married and had children in May 2009 and May 2010 and May-Treanor partnered with Nicole Branagh. In the interim, the Chinese and Brazilians dominated the sport.

A year before the London Olympics, the duo got back together for one last go at Olympic gold, and after yester-



## 13-8

The score by which May-Treanor and Walsh-Jennings trailed in the first set at the first technical timeout.

## ON TV TOMORROW

May/Walsh vs. Ross/Kessy  
4 p.m. (Live), 8 p.m. NBC

day's win, they will have that chance.

"We want to seal the deal that we're the best team that's

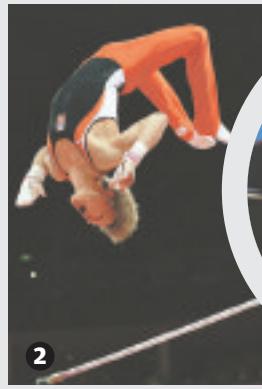
ever happened," Walsh-Jennings told reporters after the match. "Misty has changed my life. I just love her. I want to win tomorrow for us."

Ross and Kessy, meanwhile, were making their Olympic debuts and as the No. 4 seed weren't necessarily ex-

pected to figure in the medals.

"I had a picture in my head at the beginning of the season of how I wanted us to play, and we're living that picture," Walsh-Jennings said.

**MARK OSBORNE**  
mark.osborne@metro.us



## The games in pictures

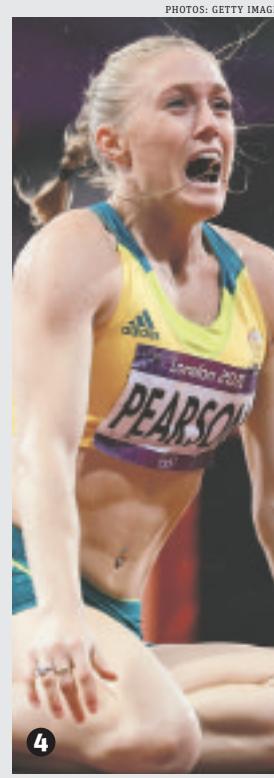
1 U.S. women's water polo coach Adam Krikorian's ill-timed timeout didn't keep his team from winning in extra time.

2 Epke Zonderland of the Netherlands flipped his way to gold in the men's high bar competition.

3 Weightlifter Mathias Steiner was miraculously uninjured after dropping 432 pounds on his neck.

4 Aussie Sally Pearson edged out three Americans to win gold in the 100m hurdles.

5 Alistair Brownlee won gold in the men's triathlon and made it a family affair when his brother, Jon, took home the bronze.



## Medal count



	G	S	B
1. CHINA	34	21	18
2. UNITED STATES	30	19	21
3. GREAT BRITAIN	22	13	13
4. RUSSIA	10	18	20
5. JAPAN	2	13	14
6. FRANCE	8	9	11
7. GERMANY	6	14	7
8. AUSTRALIA	4	12	9
9. SOUTH KOREA	12	5	6
10. ITALY	7	6	4



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# Raisman takes center stage in floor routine

First, U.S. gymnast Aly Raisman got a measure of retribution for the tiebreaker that cost her a bronze in the individual all-around. Hours later, it was nothing but gold.

The final day of gymnastics at the 2012 Olympics began with the balance beam event final. Raisman put together a solid, if not gold medal-winning routine, that shockingly resulted in a fourth-place finish. But unlike the all-around, the U.S. team appealed the decision due to a judges' mistake on Raisman's difficulty score. She was originally given a 6.2, when the score should have been 6.3. The U.S. won the appeal almost immediately and the new difficulty score upped Raisman into a bronze medal.

There were no such tense moments in the floor exercise, however, where Raisman domi-

## 6.5

Raisman, the reigning bronze medalist in the World Championships, began her floor routine with a difficulty score of 6.5 — the highest in the competition.

nated the competition. Raisman's score of 15.6 wasn't just the high for the day, but the highest score for any gymnast in qualifying or the all-around competition. She won the competition by four-tenths — larger than the distance between second and fifth places. Raisman leaves London with two golds and a bronze.

There were no such tense moments in the floor exercise, however, where Raisman domi-

MARK OSBORNE  
mark.osborne@metro.us



► On a day when Jordyn Wieber and Gabby Douglas stumbled, it was Raisman who took the spotlight in London.



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## Olympics news in brief



### US basketball advances with ease

**BASKETBALL.** The most dominant basketball team in the world isn't the U.S. men, but the U.S. women.

They dispatched with Canada much easier than their counterparts on the soccer pitch. They won their first elimination game, 91-48, behind 15 points from Diana Taurasi. Candace Parker had 12 points and seven rebounds off the bench.

The United States will face its biggest rival, Australia, on Thursday.

### Pearson beats US hurdles trio

**TRACK.** The biggest star going into the women's 100-meter hurdles was Lolo Jones. But she wasn't the favorite on her own team.

As it happened, Australia's Sally Pearson, the reigning world champion, beat out all three Americans in the race. Dawn Harper, who won gold in Beijing when Jones fell on the ninth hurdle, took silver and Kellie Wells took bronze. Jones finished fourth.

### Kynard takes silver in high jump

**FIELD.** Erik Kynard took a surprise silver in men's high jump yesterday. The 21-year-old from Kansas State was competing in his first Olympics. ■ METRO

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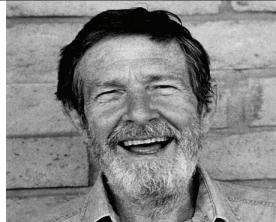




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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2012

# Jets fight again; this time they pay for it

► Ryan stops practice after second day of skirmishes to make team run  
► Sports psychologist says fights aren't divisive ► Revis tweaks his back

For the second straight day, the Jets got physical with a mild training camp fight between rookies Demario Davis and Terrance Ganaway, followed up moments later by Antonio Cromartie getting into it first with Stephen Hill and then Dustin Keller. But rather than a circus, the scraps might just be a sign that training camp is drawing to a close.

After Tuesday's second fight, head coach Rex Ryan made his team run "gassers" as a punishment, following up on his threat from the day before. On Monday, quarterback Mark Sanchez scolded his teammates for their involvement in a pile-up, but fights, even ones involving 20 players, are just a part of training camp.

"Training camp fights are rarely divisive and more typically the results of normal competitive juices flaring under the spotlight of coaches, [whom the players] are trying

**"We're not being good teammates right now. We dialed it up a little bit too hard."**

ERIC SMITH, SAFETY

to impress. Fights in camp usually show an extra desire and a statement of wanting to belong and contribute than any negative divisiveness," said sports psychologist Dr. John F. Murray, author of "The

Mental Performance Index." The players are likely getting a bit antsy with the Jets closing in on the start of their preseason schedule with this Friday's game at Cincinnati.

"The point I wanted them to understand is that I'm serious about it. I think a lot of times, guys will fight and they'll do all that type of stuff, and as a coach, sometimes you want that out of your guys," Ryan said. "You want them to be over-the-top aggressive because you can al-

ways rein them in. Sometimes if they don't have that, then you kind of wonder. Clearly, I don't question the guys' toughness; I don't question the guys' courage. Now was the time to rein them in, and that's what we did."

"No question, it brings the fight and attitude and shows our offense won't be a pushover offense this season," Santonio Holmes said.

**KRISTIAN DYER**  
[sports@metro.us](mailto:sports@metro.us)



er while holding his back. Revis returned a little while later, however, and got back into practice.

"He had some stiffness [in his lower back], head coach Rex Ryan said. "I'm not going to get into specifics. That happened earlier in

camp as well. We tried to hold him back some, but he's a guy that you have to get in there and warm him up."

Revis missed time with a strained hamstring on the first day of practice this camp as well.

"We don't need for Darrelle to be set back two or three weeks," Ryan said.

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# Giants rookies ready to go

The first day Rueben Randle showed up for rookie minicamp, the coaches began talking about how good he looked — albeit with reservations. He was still a rookie after all.

Offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride said after Randle's first practice in blue that he looked "smooth" but was "obviously thinking [too much]."

But after an entire offseason, Randle and rookie first-round pick David Wilson, are ready to show what they can do in a game. They'll get the chance Friday night in the Giants' preseason opener against Jacksonville.

"[Our first preseason game] means a lot," Randle said. "We will be able to show the coaches what we're capable of doing and I think they'll gain more confidence in us, and



► Randle will not only be battling Jerrel Jernigan at receiver but also as the team's main punt returner.

more trust in the players around us, so it's going to be a big step for us."

Randle could end up playing in the slot as the third receiver behind Hakeem Nicks

and Victor Cruz once the season starts. But Nicks, who is still recovering from a broken foot, is unlikely to play Friday. Randle said he wasn't sure how that would affect his play-

ing time.

"They haven't talked to us about it," he said. "We just continue to focus on this practice week and maybe a little bit later in the week, coach will talk to us about it."

There's also a good chance Randle will see time returning punts. Preseason will be a good chance to audition players for the role vacated by Aaron Ross, and Randle is an early favorite.

"He covers more ground that it appears because he's a long, smooth strider," special teams coach Tom Quinn said. "But he does have the ability to stick his foot in the ground, from what it looks like in practice." ● MARK OSBORNE

ON TV FRIDAY

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PURSUANT TO LAW, that the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at 66 John Street, 11th floor, on a petition from 41-08 Restaurant Corp. d/b/a Christos Steak House to continue to, to modify, maintain, and operate an unenclosed sidewalk cafe at 41-08 23rd Avenue in the Borough of Queens for a term of two years. REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF THE PROPOSED REVOCABLE CONSENT AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOIL OFFICER, 42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004.

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## Market watch



**CHEAPEST**  
**\$215K**  
**320 E. 42nd St.**  
 The cheapest apartment to hit the market this week is a studio at 320 E. 42nd St., a full-service Tudor City building. This co-op unit, which features a dishwasher and south-facing views, is listed by Joe Gotham for \$215,000.



**PRICEIEST**  
**\$21.5M**  
**25 Columbus Circle**  
 The most expensive unit listed this week is a three-bedroom condo in the Time Warner Center at 25 Columbus Circle. The unit features direct Central Park and Hudson River views and is being marketed by Sotheby's for \$21.5M.



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# Big demand for small rentals

► Price hikes for studios and one-bedroom apartments outpace larger units in Manhattan this summer

New York City is famous for its cramped—and pricey—living spaces.

That's truer than ever this summer as rent increases for studios and one-bedrooms outpace the market overall, according to a Prudential Douglas Elliman quarterly market report released last month.

In fact, in the second quarter of 2012, rents for these small homes were at their highest levels in at least four years, according to appraiser Jonathan Miller, who prepared the Elliman report.

In NYC, there's always demand for these entry-level homes, which are popular with students, young professionals and pied-a-terre seekers. And while studios and one-bedrooms dominate the rental stock in Manhattan, there aren't enough to go around. Mayor Michael Bloomberg recently cited statistics showing that there are 1 million studio and one-bedroom units in NYC, and 1.8 million one- and two-person households.

While demand is always highest in the summer, it seems to be particularly intense this year, brokers said. Some renters may be downsizing after getting hit with lease renewals lacking the breaks that became common during the recession, experts said. Others may be unable to secure mort-



## Rents rising

The median rent for a Manhattan home in the second quarter of 2012 rose 7.9 percent year-over-year, to \$3,125, the Elliman report said.

► But the median rent for studios rose nearly twice as much, by 15.4 percent, to \$2,395 per month, nearing the peak established in the second quarter of 2008. For one-bedrooms, the median rent rose 8.5 percent to \$3,250, tying records set in the third quarters of 2007 and 2008.

gates to buy units in the tight lending environment.

Demand has gotten so fierce that Bloomberg last month proposed "micro" units.

Current zoning regulations require new units to measure at least 400 square feet. Promising to waive these rules, the mayor invited developers to submit plans for a Kips Bay rental where at least three-quarters of the units would be only about 300 square feet.

LEIGH KAMPING-CARDER

TheRealDeal.com is a daily blog and monthly magazine covering real estate in the New York metro area.

**THE REAL DEAL**

## On the market

### Nicole Kidman sells W. Village apartment

Actress Nicole Kidman has sold her 12th-floor unit at 176 Perry St., the famed Richard Meier-designed building in the West Village, according to public records filed with the city on Monday.

The 3,785-square-foot residence, which has a 30-foot-wide entrance gallery as well as sweeping views of New York Harbor, features three



► Kidman and Urban

bedrooms and three and a half bathrooms. It sold for \$16 million to an LLC named Perry West, with an address at the New York office of attorney Alfred Cavallaro. Cavallaro was not available for comment. The deal

for the property closed July 10, records show.

The star purchased the unit in 2003 under the name of her sister, Antonia Hawley. Soon after, it was reported that Kidman was upset by construction of the nearby Meier tower at 165 Charles St., which partially blocked her view of the Hudson River. She and husband Keith Urban, who are based in Nashville, bought another apartment at 200 11th Ave. in early 2011. They paid \$10 million for the 11th Avenue penthouse, according to news reports.

Meanwhile, Kidman and Urban are reportedly expanding their Sydney, Australia, home.

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# Time for a stay-cation

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"The bed is really important when you want to feel like you're in a hotel," says Garcia. The first step: upgrade to hotel-quality sheets. "All the sheets should have at least 500-800 thread count," she says. Also, stay in a neutral color palette.

"Whites on whites, creams on creams. You'll never go to a really nice resort and they have all different pattern sheets. White and crisp is always best." Another key trick, she says, is to layer your bed. "Make sure you have a duvet insert or a coverlet on top of the sheets."

**► "Make sure that pillows are nice and plush," says Garcia. "These are all things that make you feel very comfortable."**

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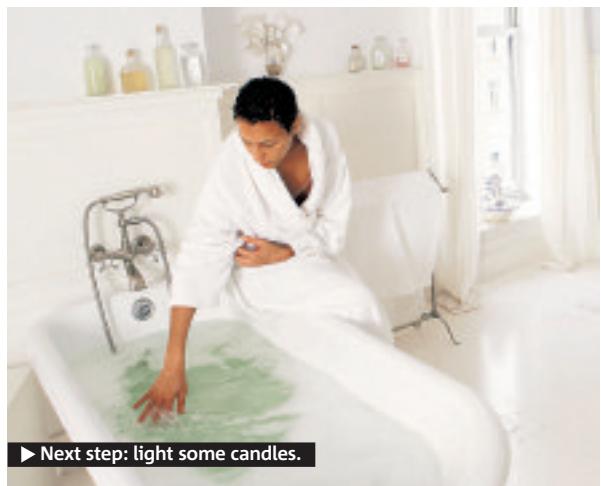
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**EHO**

► Need a getaway but can't afford an island retreat right now? (Hey, that fall coat is calling!) ► Blanche Garcia, interior designer and star of the Travel Channel's 'Hotel Impossible,' has a simple alternative to booking a flight: Turn your apartment into a summer stay-cation ► Here's how



EYECANDY IMAGES

#### Your spa appointment awaits

"In the bathroom, candles are really important for ambiance," stresses Garcia. She also suggests stocking up on accoutrements for a bubble bath.

"Normally people take a shower because everyone is in a rush, but when you're going to lounge, you want to make sure that you're taking bubble baths. They make you feel way more relaxed."

#### Feng shui away

► Your outdoor space can use a little vacay makeover, too. "I like using mini fountains; they are really pretty and bring in the water element," says Garcia. For the fire element, she suggests adding a mobile fire pit.

#### Edit your stressful junk

If you want to feel like you're somewhere far from your reality, eliminate your usual clutter, says Garcia. "When you're at home, you don't notice all the papers piling up because you're used to seeing them every day, but if you just ran in and put those things away, got really colorful pillows, pop in your iPod, you would feel like you're not in your space."



CREATAS

#### Bring your dream vacation to your home

"If you're going to stay home for the week but you really want to be in, say, Italy or Jamaica, plan it so for that week, everything that you're

cooking is from that country," says Garcia. "If you want to be in Italy, make sure to play all Italian music."

 **JOANIE FERGUSON**  
letters@metro.us

#### Welcome!

Garcia's tips for setting up a guest room:

- 1 Keep a basket in the room with notepaper, sewing kit, magazines, incidentals, eye masks, slippers and earplugs for their comfort.
- 2 Keep layers of sheets, a duvet and a throw so they have options.
- 3 Place an inexpensive dimmer on the bedside lamp so your guests can adjust as they see fit.

#### Scents

Add drawer sheets within the drawers of the dresser with relaxing scents like lavender, says Garcia. "Or if you want to feel beach-y, use an ocean scent."

# SKIP THE HAMPTONS

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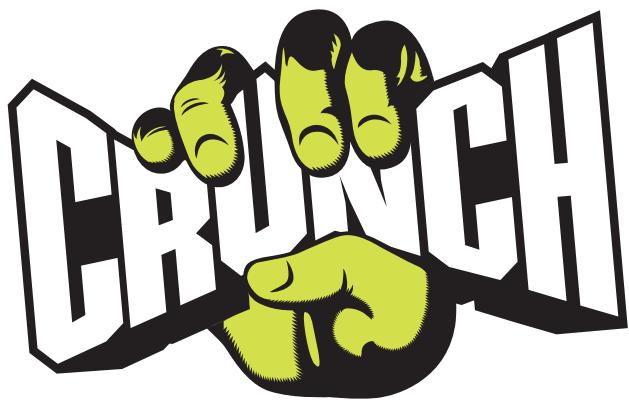
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